

Appl. No. : **10/699,237**
Filed : **October 30, 2003**

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-35, 38, and 40-73 are pending in this application. Claims 3, 36, 37, and 39 have been canceled. Claims 4-7, 10, 13, 20, 23-26, and 29-33 have been amended. New Claims 40-73 have been added. Each new claim depends from an allowed claim or from an allowable claim redrafted into independent form. Support for the amendments and new claims is found in the specification and claims as filed.

Allowed Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1, 2, and 38.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-9, 29, and 31 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6, 29, and 31 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 7-9 depend from amended Claim 6. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to Claims 6-9, 29, and 31 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 3-5, 13-19, 23, 30, 32-35, 37, and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Denton et al. (U.S. 5,589,443). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 3, 37, and 39 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to facilitate issuance of the claims indicated to be allowable. Claims 4, 5, 13, 23, 30, 32, and 33 have been amended to depend from allowed Claim 2. Claims 14-19, 34, and 35 depend from allowed Claim 2 through one or more intervening claims. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 3-5, 10-23, and 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Koltermann et al. (U.S. 6,056,072). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 3 and 36 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to facilitate issuance of the claims indicated to be allowable. Claims 4, 5, 10, 13, 10, 20, and 23 have been amended to depend from allowed Claim 2. Claims 11, 12, 14-19, 21, and 22 depend from allowed Claim 2 through one or more intervening claims. Applicants reserve the ability to

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pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 24-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Koltermann et al. in view of Lawate et al. (5,773,391). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 24-26 have been amended to depend from allowed Claim 2. Claims 27 and 28 depend from allowed Claim 2 through Claim 26. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. The rejection is therefore moot.

Conclusion


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns that might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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